



# E-News

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## NHSN Links

*NHSN Website*

*NHSN Manual: Patient Safety Component Protocols*

*DHQP Website*

## Contact Us

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# COMING SOON! NHSN MANUAL REVISIONS

Within the next week or two, the ***NHSN Manual: Patient Safety Protocol*** will be updated on the website [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/nhsn/NHSN\\_Manual\\_Patient\\_Safety\\_Protocol052407.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/nhsn/NHSN_Manual_Patient_Safety_Protocol052407.pdf). There will be quite a few changes to the Manual, so it's important that you either print it or read through it carefully and bookmark it for your reference. Here are some of the significant changes you'll find:

- Added: "Identifying Healthcare-associated Infections (HAI) in NHSN".
- Changes to Settings and Definitions sections in CLABSI, VAP and CAUTI protocols to reflect the concept that these events are only collected in inpatient locations where denominator data are collected. Multiple examples have been added.
- In CLABSI section, the Note explaining the meaning of the phrase "Physician institutes appropriate therapy" has been rescinded and will no longer be included in the protocol. See article below for more on this topic.
- Added: Temperature equivalents for neonates and infants – adding tympanic and temporal artery temp measurement.
- Added Birthweight definition and example.
- Added information under SSI Denominators about the duration of procedure when more than one operation is performed.
- Added Basic Risk Index details to SSI Data Analysis and Key Terms.
- Table 2a. Instructions for adding pathogens: Added information about requirements for reporting susceptibility patterns.
- Added changes to NHSN Operative Procedure / ICD-9-CM codes based on annual code changes. (Note: This will also be updated in the ICD-9-CM Codes spreadsheet on the website). Keep in mind that it could take a few weeks for these changes to become available in the NHSN reporting tool.

- Table 13. Principal Operative Procedure Selection (Priority) list, which is used to determine which of two procedures should be selected for an SSI when both are performed through the same incision: Two procedures (OVRV and XLAP) have been repositioned on the list.
- Key Terms added: 80% Rule, ASA Score, Birthweight, CDC Location, Transfer Rule.
- Key Terms removed: NHSN Location

NOTE: The above list is not all inclusive! There are other small changes throughout the document that should also be noted. These are highlighted as usual, so you'll be able to identify them easily.

## Laboratory Confirmed Bloodstream Infections (LCBI) Clarification

There have been so many comments from users since we issued a clarification of "appropriate antimicrobial therapy" in the May 2007 NHSN E-News, that we've taken a very critical look at the criteria and the reporting instructions for this definition. Revisions have been drafted and are currently being evaluated. We anticipate that the changes will go into effect beginning January 1, 2008, and we'll update the NHSN Manual accordingly. Until that time, you should still use the current LCBI criteria from the Manual, but the interpretation of criteria 2b and 3b should be the same as it was before the May 2007 Note.

## Notes about Obtaining a New Digital Certificate

- NHSN will notify you via email 30 days prior to your digital certificate's expiration. Please do not apply for a new digital certificate prior to this 30-day time period, otherwise your request will be denied.
- When you apply for a new digital certificate, your old certificate will be suspended immediately and you won't be able to access NHSN. Applications for digital certificates take 48-72 hours to process, so plan accordingly.
- You can use the same challenge phrase for your new digital certificate.
- Instructions for obtaining and installing a digital certificate can be found in Step 3 of the NHSN User Start-up Guide.
- Don't forget to make a back-up of your new digital certificate!
- Facility Administrators: Remember to deactivate any users who have left your facility or who are no longer using NHSN!

## Facility Administrators - Please Review Users

We've discovered that there are quite a few users that have been added to NHSN facility rosters that are not actually participating in NHSN – many have never downloaded a digital certificate. Because they have been added, we still have them on our email list, but many of these emails are bouncing back to us. The only way to help us clean this up is for your NHSN Facility Administrator to inactivate these users.

Here's how...

- From the Navigation Bar, select "find" Users.
- Find the name of the individual who should be deleted. Don't click on their name, but check the box to the left under the column marked "Delete", and then click the "Delete" button.
- The next time you try to find users, this user will be marked "inactive" (you can't actually delete a user, but this process will make him/her inactive). This action will also remove him/her from our email list.

You may also want to take this opportunity to review each user's rights, making sure that each user has exactly the access rights they need.

## NHSN Interactive Computerized Training Courses

Work on the new training courses is progressing very well. Initial work on the Patient Safety Component courses is about 75% completed and some of it is in the CDC clearance process.

## Protocol Pointers

### Device-associated events identified post-discharge

Surveillance for device-associated events is not required after the patient is discharged from the facility, however, if discovered, they should be reported to NHSN. Do not report additional device days.

Birthweight is a risk stratifier for events in the NICU. It refers to the weight of the infant at the time of birth and should not be changed as the infant gains weight. For example, if a neonate weighs 1006 grams at birth but remains in the NICU for two months and has a body weight of 1650 grams when it develops a CLABSI, the recorded birthweight should still be 1006 grams on the BSI form/screen.

## NHSN Statistics – October 1, 2007

Facilities reporting in NHSN	~ 700
Monthly Reporting Plans	9,496
Patients entered	379,939
Summary Data Records	21,428
Events	436,019
BSI	15,718
PNEU	7,944
SSI	14,330
UTI	12,461
DI	8,859
Procedures	367,697
Facilities importing OR records	63
Output (Rates, graphs, etc.) generated	64,903